

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**November 16, 2005 at 4:00 P.M.**

**City of Fort Lauderdale**

**100 North Andrews Avenue**

**8<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**

<b>Economic Development Advisory Board</b>	<b>Current Meeting</b>	<b>Cumulative Attendance</b>	
<b><u>MEMBERS</u></b>		<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Absent</u></b>
Robert Boyd	A	1	2
Mark Budwig	P	3	0
William Burrington	P	2	1
Pat DuMont, Chair	P	3	0
Ruchel Louis, Vice Chair	A	2	1
Michael F. McGinn	A	0	3
Cort Neimark	P	1	2
Tim Schiavone	A	2	1
Gerri Washington	A	0	3
Gwen Watson	P	1	2
Lisa Zelch	A	1	2

### **Staff**

Ron Hicks, Economic Development Director

Silver Lee, Clerk II

### **I. Call to Order**

Chair DuMont called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

## **II. Discussion of Post Hurricane Wilma**

The City of Fort Lauderdale Economic Development Director Ron Hicks provided the board with detail on the City's preparations for, as well as response during and after, Hurricane Wilma.

Mr. Hicks specifically addressed the response of the Economic Development Department immediately after the hurricane. Mr. Hicks said his team reached out to major employers and the Brokers Roundtable and the hotels by phone and walked the beach to speak with each individual business. Most significant was the establishment of the Business Recovery Center (BRC), which provided information on assistance options, including short-term bridge loans. The BRC also helped file forms to speed the recovery process and provided Internet, fax and copier services to businesses without power. The City had also formed a partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to make local disaster recovery even easier.

The City provided space and support services to the SBA in order to expedite the resident loan application process. The City of Fort Lauderdale staff and SBA representatives have been available Monday – Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the BRC.

## **V. Adjourn**

Thereupon the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.